

REMARKS

The Application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

Previously claims 1-18 were pending with claim 1 being the sole independent claim. This amendment takes the recitations of claim 2 and adds those to claim 1, canceling claim 2. The recitations of claim 1 are being added to claim 12 in order to make claim 12 independent. New dependent claims 19-20 are based on original claims 17-80 and depend from now independent claim 12.

The Official Action objected to the specification for not including section headings. Responsively, appropriate section headings have been added.

The Official Action objected to the drawings for not showing a grating that extends over the cross-sectional area of the line. Responsively, drawing Figure 6 has been added which illustrates such a grating. This drawing figure does not add new matter.

The Official Action objected to claims 1 and 16 due to form. Responsively, those claims have been amended so as to remedy the stated basis of objection.

Application No. 09/923,396  
Amdt. dated December 1, 2003  
Reply to Office Action of September 23, 2003  
Docket No. 0503-1085

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation that the Official Action indicated the claims 2-7 and 12 were directed to allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form including all the limitations of the base and intervening claims. In reliance thereupon, claim 1 has been amended to include the recitations of allowable claim 2 and claim 12 has been amended to be in independent form.

In view of these above-noted amendments, allowance of all the pending claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that the present application is in condition for allowance and an early indication of the same is respectfully requested.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,  
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